combined operation of Army and the Air Force. The operation was a success. Further use of helicopters in a gunship role in J & K would depend on the tactical situation.

Appropriate steps continue to be taken to tackle the terrorists in J & K.

Incidences of Killings and Stealing of Organs of Defence Personnel

†4735. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:
SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidences of killings of army officers and personnel and stealing of important limbs after killings are taking place in the army;

(b) if not, the reaction of Government over the news-item published in Hindi newspaper "Hindustan" dated the 5lh April, 2000, on front page under the caption "Vayu Adhikari ki Aankhen, gurde va dusre jaruri ang nikale gaya"; and

(c) the steps Government would like to take to prevent the re-occurrence of such incidence?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In an incident of May 1998, an Indian Airforce personnel admitted in a Navy Hospital in Mumbai was suddenly found dead. A post mortem examination was conducted to find out the cause of death. During the post mortem, some internal organs were removed for examination. A Court of Inquiry ordered by the Airforce authroities to inquire into the allegation of theft of internal organs of the late IAF personnel, found the allegation baseless. However, following a complaint made by the lather of the decease, the body was exhumed on the orders of Coroner of Mumbai. The second post morten examination conducted by Coroner's Court, Munmbai and the chemical analysis report did not support the allegation.

(c) Does not arise.

Reductions in Manpower of Indian Army

†4736. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.